

Westworth Place.
15th Aug^r 1821.

My dear Richards,

On Saturday evening I received a letter from Severn, dated Rome 17th July. He was harassed and perplexed about his picture, and not very well in health. Mr. Hilton sent him word, thro' Mr. Taylor, that his picture, in order to obtain the pension, must be in the Academy on some particular day in September. Severn therefore worked and laid his plans accordingly. All at once his sister wrote him word that the latest day appointed for its reception was 10th Aug^r. Poor fellow! he instantly despatched it, partly unfinished, for London by the King's Messenger, and time enough for the purpose, but some untoward ^{chances} have detained the Messenger or the Picture, so that it had not arrived on 13th, when I was busying myself from house to house about it. It is feared that from this circumstance he never can get the pension, which is £130 ann: for three years, & his travelling expenses to Italy and back. Public bodies never make allowances, — they talk of precedents, — say a rule is a rule, — and pass on to the next, glad enough in all probability

of an excuse for illiberality, as it may tend
to the advantage of one of their more especial
creatures. Now, Richards, write to Devereux
as soon as you can, to cheer him. I did
what I could yesterday, & will try again
next post. My plan is (supposing the worst)
to make him hate all Academies, to excite
his spirit of independence, and to urge him
to make portrait painting, in which he
excels, his sheet anchor, leaving the
historical in the back ground, as a study
that will keep him poor all his life,
and, at the best, only give him a good
name when he shall be nothing but a
name. We all know how difficult it
is to stifle young ambition, but I have
tried to do so, and a second in my cause
may avail much. I want him to be
reconciled to quiet in mind after this
 cruel disappointment. He complains
seriously of the neglect of his friends
in England, and, among the rest, your
name is not forgotten. Mark that!
Write, as you love him, with all speed.
Theatre's papers, in the destruction after his
death, were fortunately saved, and Devereux
has consigned them to my care; they are
not yet arrived. This I am rejoiced at.
I gave him a hint that I feared Mr.
Taylor's Memoir would be a bookseller's

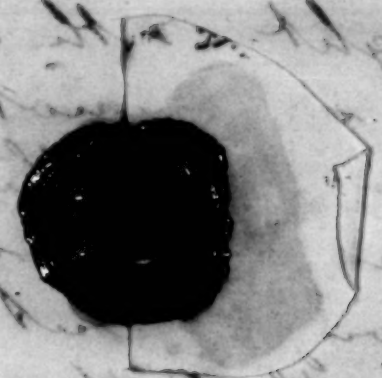
job, - this I wrote yesterday. Indeed I have
great reason to think so, from what has
been buzzed abroad since I saw you. It
appears that any ~~interference~~ interference on my
part is conceived to be ridiculous. Putting
these rumours together with Mr Taylor's
late conduct I find my eyes beginning
to open. Still he has my conditional promise
of assistance, to which I must abide, but
I guess he will not accept it under such
conditions, believing he has got out of
me every thing essential for his purpose.
So I hear. My article was returned last
night with a note from Mr. Hefsey, saying
"it will not do", - I quote his
words & the rest into the bargain.
you shall read it. It may be bad
enough, but I'll take my oath it's
worth better treatment. Oh! here
is Severn's address, - à Joseph Severn Esq.,
Poste Restante, à Rome, en Italie. Your
friend, Mr. Peachey, did me the favour of a
call; we chatted for a long time, but he
never once ~~but~~ hinted at residing here, so
I conjecture he has changed his mind;
there would have been an impropriety in
my proposing it to him. I am told that
Clarke is thinking of writing a memoir
of Thackeray. Give my Compl^{ts} to Mrs. Richards
& my love to the Children, & believe me,
Yours most truly,
Chas. Brown.

Brown

28.18
17.10
11.8



Mr. J. A. Richards Esq
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To Ad. Rich
at New York

Received by
the
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